

Helping rural communities
to access funding

Rural Direct



Helping you to help your community

New funding opportunities are opening up for Scotland's rural communities, and the Scottish Government is supporting the Rural Direct service to help you make the most of them. SCVO and the Crofters Commission are working together to deliver a useful and effective service for community groups across the whole of rural Scotland.

Whether you're looking to refurbish your village hall, develop new local amenities and services, or work out a long term plan for your community's future development, funding is available to help you. We can help you identify it and get hold of it.

Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2007 - 13

- £1.6 billion programme of economic, social and environmental measures to develop rural Scotland
- Funded by The Scottish Government, The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, Voluntary Modulation

SRDP Key Themes

- Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector (16 Options)
- Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside (47 Options)
- Axis 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy (12 Options)
- There is also a fourth Axis that uses the LEADER approach to deliver a locally-driven approach to innovation and development administered by local partnerships.

SRDP Delivery Through:

- Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme
- Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation Grant Scheme
- Forestry Commission Challenge Funds
- The LEADER initiative
- Less Favoured Area Support Scheme
- Rural Development Contracts
- Skills Development Scheme

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

5 KEY “OUTCOMES”:

- business viability and competitiveness
- water quality
- adaptations to mitigate climate change
- biodiversity and landscapes
- thriving rural communities

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

9 “THEME HEADINGS”:

- Business Viability & Competitiveness Priorities (1 – 7)
- Biodiversity Priorities (8 – 12)
- Landscape Priorities (13 – 14)
- Built & Cultural Heritage Priorities (15)
- Water & Soils Priorities (16 – 20)
- Adaptations to Mitigate Climate Change Priorities (21 – 24)
- Public Access Priorities (25)
- Diversification of Rural Enterprise Priorities (26 – 30)
- Thriving Rural Communities Priorities (31 – 32)

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

“THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES PRIORITIES” (31 – 32)

- “HIG31a. the provision of access to high quality socially, environmentally and economically sustainable community buildings (such as multi-use community centres), and facilities (i.e. sport and leisure).

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

PACKAGE 36, “IMPROVING RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES”

- **These Options will always deliver the desired outcome:**
- **Community services and facilities**
- **Area access management**
- **These Options will help to achieve the desired outcome in specific circumstances:**
- **Support for renewable energy - non land-based**
- **Reducing bacterial contamination in watercourses**
- **Development/creation of micro-enterprises**
- **Information and awareness raising**
- **Collaborative Local Development Strategies**
- **Skills development**
- **Sustainable management of forests - Low-impact silvicultural systems**
- **Sustainable management of forests - Areas of high public usage**
- **Woodland improvement grant - Long term forest planning**

Rural Priorities – How it Works

- 2 stage application process:
- Submit “Statement of Intent” - either RED or AMBER feedback
- Submit detailed “Proposal”, plus an “Outcome Plan” addressing one or more “Regional Priorities”
- Successful applicants offered a single rural priorities contract
- Both stages supported by local Case Officers
- Online application process only at present

Rural Direct – How it Helps 1

- Help community groups to obtain a Business Reference Number (BRN) from SGRPID = complete a Land & Business Change Form (LBCF)
- Help to register with the Government Gateway for Rural Payments Online

Rural Direct – How it Helps 2

- Requires broadband access to prepare and submit SOI and Proposal on line
- Help to prepare and submit SOI
- Help to incorporate feedback from Case Officers
- Help to prepare and submit Proposal, addressing regional priorities and other criteria
- Help to share experience and information across region towards a simpler standardised and successful format

Rural Direct - Contacts

- Free service available to constituted community groups in rural areas throughout Scotland
- Highlands & Islands contact: Rural Direct, Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ, 01463 663450, ruraldirect@crofterscommission.org.uk
- General Enquiries: 0845 838 8598