

## Scottish National Rural Network Action Plan

1 This Action Plan is evolving and activity may be added or reprioritised through the SRDP period 2007 – 2013 to maximise opportunities. Progress against the Plan will be updated quarterly.

### Design and Development (June 2008 to November 2008)

2 The Scotland Rural Development Programme opened in February 2008. For the period June 2008 to November 2008, the SNRN Action Plan had eight key outputs and related activities as outlined below:

1. Output 1 – Establish Network Unit within Rural Directorate, Scottish Government, to manage the design, development and operation of the SNRN.
2. Output 2 - Establish LEADER Local Action Groups throughout Scotland.
3. Output 3 – Contribute to development of UK NRN through membership of and participation in UK NRN Steering Group
4. Output 4 – Review current stakeholder network arrangements
5. Output 5 – Design SNRN
6. Output 6 – Design Benefits Realisation
7. Output 7 – Award tender for new SNRN web site to replace Rural Community Gateway on contract expiry 2009
8. Output 8 - Publish Action Plan

3 These activities have been completed. Building on existing stakeholder arrangements, the Scottish National rural Network has been designed to have [3 main elements](#).

### Operational – Phase 1 (November 2008 to May 2009)

4 From November 2008 the SNRN will be operational. Phase 1 to May 2009 will see a regional build using the LEADER Action Groups widening out access to networking opportunities to the broader rural community of interest through local events relevant to the interests of place and people. The intention is that this will culminate in a national event bringing together rural strategists, practitioners and stakeholders to learn about development opportunities, celebrate successes and exchange knowledge with Scots

and international rural development practitioners. During the same period, new web communication opportunities will be introduced. The outputs are:

- 1 Output 1 - Establish regional network
- 2 Output 2 – Develop transnational networking opportunities
- 3 Output 3 - Launch networking web site with supporting databases
- 4 Output 4 - Engage rural stakeholders nationally in considering development opportunities
- 5 Output 5 – Publish national discussion material

### **Operational – Phase 2 (June 2009 to October 2011)**

5 Throughout this period, the Scotland Rural Development programme is subject to on going evaluation, in particular, in 2010, there will be a mid term evaluation in accordance with regulatory requirements. Similarly while all 3 SNRN elements will interplay during this period, initial contracts will be reviewed against the benefit realisation plan and lessons learned will be compiled for the remaining part of the programme.

### **Operational – Phase 3 (November 2011 – 2013)**

6 The [benefits of the SNRN](#) should be realised

The activity schedule to deliver the Action Plan is outlined below.

No.	Activity Description	Timescale	Indicators of Achievement
<b>Design and Development</b>			
<b>Output 1 – Network Unit established within Scottish Government to manage design, development and operation of the SNRN</b>			
1.1	<p>Complete business planning processes, including annual and quarterly development and reporting processes.</p> <p>Note: This output is to ensure that the structures, (activities such as staffing, secretariat function, contract management, business and finance planning etc.) are in place to run the network, as required by the Rural Development Regulation Article 68(2) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1974/2006.</p>	By 29/7/08 + Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Governance Board established</li> <li>• Programme Initiation Document approved</li> <li>• Work streams established.</li> <li>• Monthly traffic-lights reporting initiated.</li> </ul>
1.2	Complete financial management processes, including annual and quarterly development and reporting processes.	By 10/08 + Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNRN finance systems established (e.g. budget coding, procurement)</li> <li>• Mid-year budget revision completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2 – Establish LEADER Local Action groups</b>			
2.1	Establish 20 LEADER groups with relevant funding	By 31/12/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups established and reported on separately</li> </ul>
2.2	Hold LEADER+ to LEADER Knowledge transfer event	By 09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event held at Battleby. SNRN presentation given</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3 - Contribute to development of UK NRN through membership of and participation in UK NRN Steering Group</b>			
3.1	Host initial meeting of 4 countries steering group; support UK NRN project manager and contribute to monthly review of UK NRN activity.	By 06/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-day meeting held in Edinburgh;</li> <li>• Clear plan of action established for developing the UK NRN, including draft goal, outcome and outputs;</li> <li>• Framework document drafted and agreed by UK NRN Steering Group;</li> <li>• Framework placed for public viewing on to the UK NRN website.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 4 – Review current stakeholder network arrangements</b>			

4.1	Identify current rural development stakeholder engagement activity throughout Scotland	By 10/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet chairs of Regional Proposal Assessment Committees and LEADER Local Action Groups</li> <li>• Identification of over 700 active stakeholders throughout Scotland</li> </ul>
<b>Output 5 – Design Scottish National Rural Network</b>			
5.1	Complete practical design solution for future networking arrangements to provide beneficial networking opportunities within Scotland, the UK and EU.	By 11/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design solution approved and used in presentations (Fig 1)</li> </ul>

<b>Output 6 – Design Benefits Realisation</b>			
6.1	Identify rural development benefits arising from network	By 11/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefit realisation reviewed against SRDP monitoring and evaluation activity</li> <li>Benefits realisation measurement being built into contracts. (Fig 2)</li> </ul>
<b>Output 7 - Award tender for new SNRN web site to replace Rural Community Gateway on contract expiry 2009</b>			
7.1	Secure VFM web design, build and maintain contract through open tendering procedure. Web site to utilise Web 2.0 tools to expand networking opportunities and provide a 'one stop' shop for stakeholders to access and exchange rural development information and advice.	By 31/12/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract awarded to SOPRA in partnership with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector SCVO and IPSOS Mori.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 8 - Publish Action Plan</b>			
8.1	Create Action Plan for future development of network building on stakeholder engagement review, SRDP process, PID, design brief and benefits realisation proposals.	By 31/12/08.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Plan published on Scottish Government web site</li> </ul>
<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>
<b>Operational – Phase 1 (November 2008 to May 2009)</b>			
<b>Output 1 – Establish regional network.</b>			
1.1	Award tender for regional coordinator to promote network events with LEADER Local Action Groups and wider range of stakeholders.	By 04/09	
1.2	Launch wider regional network with event programme using new web site	By 05/09 + Ongoing.	
<b>Output 2 – Develop transnational networking opportunities</b>			
2.1	Establish grant aid mechanisms to support LEADER project learning opportunities	By 31/01/09	
<b>Output 3 – Launch networking web site with supporting databases</b>			

3.1	Ensure communications strategy actively promotes web site use.	By 31/03/09.	
<b>Output 4 – Engage rural stakeholders nationally in considering development opportunities</b>			
4.1	Deliver national event including practical and inspirational elements to engage stakeholders in rural development opportunities.	By 05/09	.
<b>Output 5 - Publish national and regional discussion material</b>			
5.1	Ensure web site contains up to date material reflecting national and regional discussions; promote discussion threads	By 06/09	