



Title	Rural Partnership Development - Garioch
Local Authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garioch Community Organisations • Aberdeenshire Council
Project Summary	<p>Rural Partnerships In Aberdeenshire were set up in the 1990s as independent organisations, created and managed by community representatives. Through Economic Development, the Rural Partnerships have been supported and this has resulted in the creation of an Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation.</p> <p>The Council recognised that the lack of an effective rural partnership in Garioch was disadvantaging communities compared to the other areas of Aberdeenshire. The project hence supported awareness raising about rural partnerships in Garioch and worked with an initial steering group of community representatives to establish the Garioch Partnership.</p> <p>Many of the communities in Garioch are amongst the most rapidly growing compared to elsewhere in Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>This put additional strain on community facilities, community capacity and integration within the towns.</p> <p>Given this need, it was important to have better developed Community Action Plans as these had been helpful to ensure that all Community Planning Partners had a better approach to joined-up development, taking cognisance of the community's current and future needs.</p> <p>Rural Partnership assists by being a central knowledge-based support organisation working directly with the community and liaising with Aberdeenshire Council services.</p>
Resources	<p>In March 2012, £27,000 was approved by Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee to support the development of a Rural Partnership in Garioch along with the extensive developmental support provided by Community Economic Development Staff.</p>



<p>Good Practice and Lessons Learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Project has created many benefits for communities and Aberdeenshire Council in Garioch. • Building trust, respect and confidence within communities is paramount to a successful rural partnership • Helping Council colleagues understand the different way of working was as time resource heavy as working with the community; however this foundation building proved invaluable as the project progressed. • Existing rural partnerships were key ambassadors to help others see what was possible. • Three Community Action Plans progressed and a membership of 40 community groups within the first 2 years of operation. • The main challenge has been building the trust and respect between communities and the Council. • To ensure that the benefits of a rural partnership could be realised, face to face discussions with community groups, elected members and Council colleagues were undertaken with passion and tenacity by the Aberdeenshire Council staff
---	--

Where to find out more...

Relevant Web Link(s)	http://www.gariochpartnership.org.uk http://www.ruralpartnerships.co.uk http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/ced			
Contact	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Name: Reid Hutchison</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Tel: 01358 726411</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">email: reid.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</td> </tr> </table>	Name: Reid Hutchison	Tel: 01358 726411	email: reid.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Name: Reid Hutchison				
Tel: 01358 726411				
email: reid.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk				
Date	November 2014			