



MARR Community Plan

2010 – 2014



Aberdeenshire
Community Planning
Partnership

This is the Community Plan for Marr. It sets out the Local Government's main actions for the next three years. If you have difficulty understanding this document and require a translation, or would like a copy in a larger print, please contact the Marr Area Manager on 019755 64804.

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Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership

Our vision is:

**Working together for the best quality of life for everyone in
Aberdeenshire.**

Our Principles

The partnership has developed six guiding principles, which we will use to test everything that we do. If something that we are planning as a partnership does not fit with these principles then we should not be doing it.

The principles are:

Inclusion

We will ensure that our actions improve all Aberdeenshire citizens' ability to access our services and will take account of all factors that create a barrier to this. We will do all that we can to ensure equal opportunities and will meet all national requirements on these.

Accountability

We will make ourselves answerable to the communities and people of Aberdeenshire and keep them informed of, and seek their views on, what we are doing.

Partnership

We will work together with our partners and the people of Aberdeenshire to achieve our vision and will encourage communities to recognise their important role in sharing in community planning work.

Evidence-based

We will ensure that our actions are based on clear evidence and information and are derived from what the community wants.

Sustainability

We will work to ensure that our actions meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Efficiency

We will aim to be as efficient as possible with resources and use them to provide as effective services as possible.





Commitment to Equalities

Community planning involves working with all communities in Aberdeenshire. The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership is aware that certain groups or individuals may be more disadvantaged or vulnerable for reasons such as age, disability, gender, race or ethnicity, religious or political beliefs or sexual orientation. We will strive to improve the quality of life for all people of Aberdeenshire and will do all that we can to ensure equal opportunities.

Equalities Schemes

Public bodies have a number of legal duties laid upon them in relation to various aspects of equality. A number of our partners have schemes in place.

- Aberdeenshire Council Equalities Scheme
- Grampian Fire and Rescue Service Race Equality Scheme, Gender Equality Scheme and Disability Equality Scheme
- Grampian Police Single Equality Scheme
- Nestrans Equality Scheme
- NHS Grampian Race Equality Scheme and Disability Equality Scheme
- Scottish Enterprise Equality Scheme
- Skills Development Scotland Equality Scheme
- Cairngorm National Park Authority Joint Equality Scheme

Community Engagement

Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership has adopted a Community Engagement Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to support strong, active and inclusive communities that are both informed and involved in decision making. The strategy is also aimed at enabling partners to improve public services to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Aberdeenshire. The full document is available on the Community Planning website: www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/library





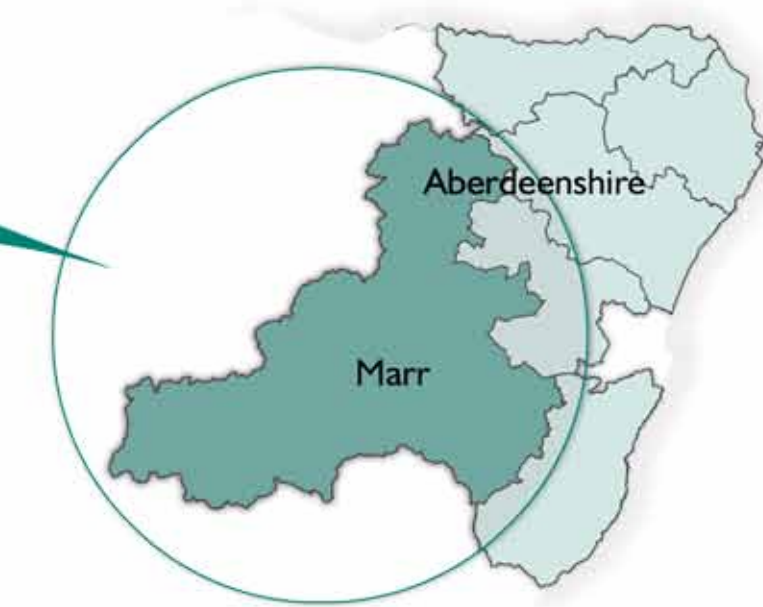
Marr Community Plan 2010 – 2014

Welcome to the 2010 – 2014 Marr Community Plan. This document brings together the plans of a range of public services, community groups and voluntary organisations. It maps out how, by working together, we all contribute to realising the vision of The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership, Working together for the best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire. It demonstrates how, by working together, we can achieve so much more.

We hope that you will find the plan inspiring. Highlights of the achievements over the last few years include the new community graveyard in Finzean, which the community built with support from Aberdeenshire Council; the brand new NHS Grampian dental facility in Huntly; community management of Braemar Castle with support from The Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Council; not to forget the many community events including Homecoming projects staged with support from partners including the Police, NHS, Fire & Rescue Service and the Council.

The response to two recent severe weather events demonstrates the strength of our partnership. On 1 November 2009 the Fire & Rescue Service, Police and the Council's Roads Service dealt with flooding across Aberdeenshire. Huntly was badly hit, a nursing home, two housing units for people with learning disabilities and around 40 houses had to be evacuated. The evacuees were immediately found safe places to stay with the support of WRVS, the Gordon Schools, Huntly Hotel and Scott's Hospital Nursing Home. The Jubilee Hospital staff, the Red Cross, Housing, other Council staff, community organisations and Community Service worked together to provide support for those affected for the weeks following this emergency. Residents whose homes were flooded gave very positive feedback about the help they received.







In late December 2009 and early January 2010, Marr's residents experienced the heaviest snowfall in 30 years with nearly 3ft of snow falling in places and temperatures fell as low as - 17 degrees. Aberdeenshire Council and our partners, the emergency services and voluntary sector and indeed local farmers were kept extremely busy in keeping roads clear and as safe as possible under the circumstances. Staff working in care homes and with vulnerable people were dedicated to ensuring that caring services were provided despite the conditions.



Cooper Cafe - cleaning up after the floods in Huntly

The Marr Community Planning Group was really pleased to receive the offer of a four wheel drive vehicle from Forest Enterprise to allow vulnerable people to be visited or to get to hospital appointments. This indicates that partnership working is alive and well and that Community Planning is making an impact.

However, we will still have a lot to learn from both these experiences. Community Planning is about us all working together to improve and preserve our quality of life. The emergency work relating to the flooding in Huntly, the efforts required to clear snow, and the commitment of staff and volunteers to provide caring services are examples of this.

Over the last few years you really have been taking community planning to heart. Alford, Ballater, Banchory, Huntly and Tarland now have their own community action plans. We hope that reading about their completed projects and plans for the future will motivate you to plan for the future of your community.

The Marr Community Planning Group recognises that some of the actions in the plan are aspirational, they can only be completed if the funding can be found. However, It is essential to be aware of these projects so we can all work together to try to achieve them.





If you wish to discuss any of the projects or action points please get in touch by telephone, e-mail or by writing to the address at the back of the Plan. We will be using this document to help us decide on future funding priorities and we do very much welcome your views.

Tremendous efforts from communities, front line staff, service managers from community planning partners and other agencies have gone into producing this Community Plan. It is important to recognise this, and the partnership working that will result in us in achieving many of the actions in it. Thank you all very much for your hard work.

Finally, Sir Angus Farquharson the Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire retired in March 2010 after 12 years in the post. I would like to wish him all the best on behalf of the agencies and communities in Aberdeenshire and thank him for his wonderful ability to deputise for the Queen in Marr.

Les Allan
Chair of the Marr Community Planning Group
Area Manager (Marr)
Aberdeenshire Council



Marr Community Planning Group



1

Purpose of the Marr Community Plan

This document provides you with outline information on intended developments and aspirations for Marr. The action points included will be led both by the major service providers and by the communities themselves. This plan will give you a clear picture of our combined vision for the area over the next four years. It is drawn up by the Marr Community Planning Group (MCPG) which is made up of community planning partners including; Aberdeenshire Council, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Grampian, Grampian Police, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Marr Area Partnership, Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Aberdeenshire Central and South, Huntly Development Trust and community council representatives from each of the three multi-member wards in the area. It is commented on by the Council's Marr Area Committee and subject to extensive public consultation. This plan will be reviewed biennially.

The format of the Plan reflects the links between the Plan and the Community, Strategic and other Plans of the Council and its partners. An important new influence is the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between the community planning partners and the Scottish Government. We will show how this Plan links with the SOA on our website at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/soa.

The actions identified in the Plan reflect dialogue with local communities, community groups, organisations and individuals through a variety of channels. In winter 2008/09 the participants at our Community Ward Forums worked with Marr's Youth Forums to complete our first Youth Action Plan. Community Learning and Development workers ensure this is kept up to date, through ongoing engagement with young people. In August 2009 our Community Ward Forums concentrated on the review of the community plan providing



With Inclusion in Mind consultation



Prince Edward and Cllr Peter Argyle at the Montgarrie Bridge opening



opportunities for discussion with community representatives across Marr about what is successful and what could improve in their areas. A questionnaire was issued, which was open for comment in hard copy and online from June to October 2009. At the end of November we held two 'With Inclusion in Mind' events to address issues experienced by individuals experiencing mental health issues and those with learning difficulties. Last November community representatives were the first to comment on the draft plan for 2010-2014. In addition to this Marr Area Partnership, acting on behalf of the MCPG, supports individual communities to develop their own Community Action Plans which also feed into this document.

The issues that you have indicated that you want to see addressed include:

- provision of affordable, environmentally friendly housing,
- sustainable communities with facilities to match development,
- youth disorder, youth facilities and engagement in community planning,
- encouraging remote rural business development and vocational training,
- regularity, improved timing, better customer care and flexibility of provision of public transport,
- improved local policing presence,
- gaps in tourism provision and marketing,
- protection and enhancement of community assets like village or town halls,
- new improved health centres, and addressing health inequalities in Huntly,
- improved sports provision,
- improving sustainability by reducing waste/promoting renewable energy,
- litter.

The MCPG has built strong links with Community Councils, Youth Forums and other local groups and organisations. We aim to increase your enthusiasm for involvement in these over the next few years. Through this feedback for future community plans should improve, ensuring a closer fit between community needs and this plan.

Some of the actions in the Plan are aspirational and reflect community, area committee, or partner desires but no resources have yet been identified to carry them out. If they cannot be resourced it may be necessary to remove them from future plans.



2

The Marr Area

The area is focused around three river systems; the Dee, Don and Deveron along which towns and villages have developed over the years. The land area represents 47% of the land covered by Aberdeenshire Council at 2942 square kilometres (1136 square miles). With nearly half of Aberdeenshire's landmass but only 15% of its people, Marr is the most sparsely populated area with an average of only 12 people per square kilometre. To the west the spectacular mountain environment of the Cairngorms, now part of the Cairngorms National Park, sustains a well-developed tourism industry based on heritage and outdoor activities.

There are over 30 towns and villages, with a significantly higher number of even smaller settlements in Marr. Some settlements are very scattered but all have their own identity and characteristics. Over the next 25 years Marr's population (36,000 increasing to 37,000 by 2016) is forecast to become increasingly elderly, the school population is expected to decline, whilst the number of households is likely to continue to increase. Communities are concerned about the lack of affordable housing opportunities to meet local need. The recent recession has had little effect on the housing market in Aberdeenshire and there are still relatively few affordably priced starter homes available for young people and families. The Council, with its partners, has a range of strategies to tackle issues like this. However, demand continues to significantly outweigh supply.

Marr's economy revolves around tourism, forestry and agriculture. Marr's spectacular scenery, natural and national heritage and Royal connections make the area, particularly



Deeside railway line



Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre



Deeside, a centre for tourism. This is reflected in the economic development priorities of the partners. However, there is the potential to spread the benefits of tourism to some of the less frequently visited districts like Huntly and Upper Donside. Partners have worked together to create a Destination Management Organisation, Deeside and the Cairngorms Ltd, to promote Royal Deeside and the Eastern part of the Cairngorms National Park for tourism focussed activity. In Huntly a Tourism Action Group has been established supported by Huntly Development Trust who have employed a Project Leader for Tourism and Marketing. The Forestry Commission is a very active partner contributing to the full range of community planning objectives but in particular to health and wellbeing and tourism. Agriculture in Marr also has the potential to contribute to both tourism and health and wellbeing with its focus on high quality food production, much of this is produced organically, providing a local source of good quality products for the restaurants and bars in the area.

The four academies and their primary feeder schools in Marr provide education, learning and leisure opportunities for residents of all ages. A new community campus for Alford is currently being planned and developed with significant contributions to the design being provided through a series of community events. The Council is working with Keig Community Hall Users Group to improve community facilities at Keig School for the benefit of residents and the school community.

Creative activity flourishes in the area, thanks to a good infrastructure of arts organisations, community groups and individual creative people living in Marr. In Huntly Deveron Arts invite international artists to live and work with the local population to develop events; Scottish Sculpture Workshop (SSW) draws national and international artists to Lumsden to spend



Firework display at Banchory



Stag near Braemar





time making new works; Woodend Barn in Banchory has a lively multi arts programme; Gartly's Tin Hut regularly welcomes national and international musicians; and the local traditional music scene includes internationally recognised musicians and some fantastic pipe bands. From traditional music to international contemporary artists, from home grown pantomimes to regular film screenings, ceilidhs and theatre performances at village halls there is a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved. All of your work in this area contributes to our aim of improving the quality of life in Marr, whilst also providing an additional draw for tourists to come to the area.



Image from 'Portrait of our time', by Mel Shand documenting the life and people of Birse, Ballogie, Finzean, Strachen'

The designation of National Park status on the Cairngorms massif provides recognition of an internationally important landscape and habitat. It has increased attention on the area and affected the inhabitants. The designation brings with it constraints but also significant opportunities. The Cairngorms National Park Authority has responsibility for co-ordinating a range of activities in its area, which encompasses a significant land mass in south west Marr made up of upper Deeside and Donside from Dinnet westwards. It is active with the Council, other agencies, the communities and communities of interest in and



Highland Dancers



Gaelic teacher, Alford Academy





around the Park in looking at a whole range of issues including green tourism, economic development, affordable housing, transport, community development and managing a pristine environment for the nation.

Long-term decline in the quantity of facilities in rural areas is evident, although the trend in Marr is less pronounced than in Aberdeenshire overall. The main centres, which include Huntly, Alford, Banchory and Aboyne, host a full range of facilities including primary and secondary schools, swimming pools etc.

NHS Grampian is working hard to bring specialist outpatient services to local hospitals in order to reduce the need for patients to travel to Aberdeen or Elgin. The Marr area has three Community Hospitals, Jubilee Hospital in Huntly, Glen O Dee Hospital in Banchory and Aboyne Hospital. These services are instrumental in ensuring whenever possible local outpatient services are provided or will be developed for the area.

Although the Council's Area Manager is based in Alford, most Council service provision is managed from Aberdeen, Stonehaven and Inverurie. There is a desire, subject to accommodation availability and budget constraints, for some frontline service provision to be relocated to Marr particularly the Marr Development Management team.

Our partners are gradually adapting their approach to management to align with the Community Planning area structure. Grampian Police have now allocated an Inspector to Marr, who sits on the MCPG. This approach is intended to prioritise partnership working and community focused policing. NHS Grampian is also developing an area based approach within its Community Health Partnership.



Glen Tanar Estate



Run Balmoral





The population of Huntly was inspired to create Huntly Development Trust, by their experience of the work that had taken place in the town through Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership. The community, through the Trust, have now taken on the challenge of influencing their own destiny. Their projects include: developing starter units for small businesses to try out ideas; working with the Huntly and District Tourism Action Group (HADTAG) and the business association to develop the tourism opportunities in and around the town. Huntly has demonstrated what a community can achieve when they plan for their future. Their work is a good example of community planning in action.

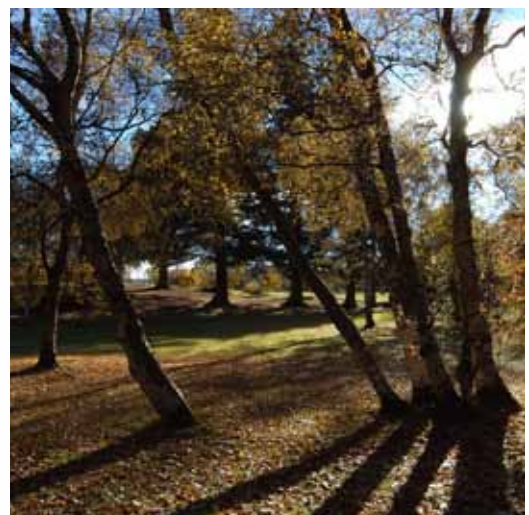
Taking this lead, other communities in Marr either have or are now getting together to consider their future. Working with the support of the Marr Area Partnership they aim to produce Community Action Plans, which will focus their attention on what's good about their communities, but also on what could improve them. Some actions will be aspirational, others will with a bit of work be fairly easy to achieve.

Oor Alford, the Alford Community Action Plan sets out ambitions that include replacing the Scout Hut and establishing a stakeholders group to work with Aberdeenshire Council to explore opportunities to improve Haughton Country Park. They are also aiming to increase the number of events in the town to reinvigorate the sense of community.

In Ballater the community Action Plan indicated the need for affordable housing and discussions held with the rural housing enabler, have resulted in the community looking at the possibility of forming their own housing trust. The community has undergone an Adult Learning Audit to identify needs for Lifelong Learning and Leisure and will be working



Sir Angus Farqueson



Haughton Country Park, Alford



with the development of community facilities, including improving the Victoria and Albert Halls and developing Monaltrie Park.

In response to the growth of Banchory and potential new developments indicated in the Draft Local Development Plan, the town's Community Action Plan has indentified the need for the kind of coherent development a Masterplan could provide for the town. In order to achieve this Banchory and District Initiative (BDI) worked with final year students from Robert Gordon University, who developed a series of 'Masterplans' for the town. Depending on the results these may influence future development.



The population in Tarland have identified several priorities for the village including being proactive in approaching landowners about the lack of affordable housing and business premises. They hope to be able to encourage landowners and developers to take these issues on board when developing plans for Tarland. The Tarland Development Group's Composting Scheme is in place and the Tarland Welfare Trust's ambitious refurbishment of the MacRobert Hall is under development.

Inspired by the Community Action Plans that are already in place other communities are now keen to follow the process and the communities of Aboyne, Braemar, Torphins and Kincardine O'Neil have expressed interest in developing plans for their communities. If you feel your community needs to plan for its future, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Marr Area Partnership www.marrareapartnership.org.uk to discuss how you would go about Community Action Planning.



Snow in Lumsden



The Lonach games





3

Aims and Objectives

The Marr Community Plan aims to develop the partners' vision by providing a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for communities in Marr and by aiming to deliver the very best services. Objectives in the Plan reflect the five themes identified in the Community Plan for Aberdeenshire which are:

- **Community Wellbeing** – Working together to enhance the quality of every day life by improving health and social care, housing and community safety
- **Jobs and the Economy** – Working together to improve the economy of Aberdeenshire and the employment prospects of the people
- **Lifelong Learning** – Working and learning together to develop opportunities and build stronger communities
- **Sustainable Environment** – Working together to achieve sustainability by reducing resource use, protecting our environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity
- **Developing our Partnership** – Working together to make our partnership as efficient and effective as possible

We intend to promote equality of opportunity for all our residents in Marr.

Actions are identified within each of the theme objectives under sub-headings such as, in the case of Community Wellbeing, Health & Wellbeing, Housing, Community Facilities and Community Safety. As far as possible each action in the Plan identifies the outcome it seeks to contribute to. With the development of Single Outcome Agreements with the Scottish Government, the Plan will in future reflect how the actions contribute to national and local outcomes.

Cross service working and working in partnership with other agencies and communities is essential to the successful achievement of the Plan's objectives.

The MCPG includes partner representation and representation from Councils for Voluntary Service, Marr Area Partnership, Huntly Development Trust and Community Councils. It is recognised that because of Marr's large geographical area it is essential that additional community engagement forums are in place and for the last few years we have been running Community Ward Forums in each ward every three months to ensure that the views of communities and community organisations are fed into the community planning system on an ongoing basis. This is to assist with "bottom up" planning. In addition voluntary sector forums run by the Councils for Voluntary Service will feed into the Community Planning Group so that a wide cross-section of views are considered.

4

Recent Achievements

A selection of achievements accomplished during 2008-2010 are listed below. As this is a community plan it identifies community as well as agency or partnership achievements particularly where community effort has been supported by agency activity or funding.

A full list of achievements is available at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk.

A Community Well Being

Improvements in health and care provision in Marr include:

- Aboyne Hospital
 - » Home birth service in operation
 - » Enhanced Minor Surgery Service
- Glen O'Dee Hospital
 - » Nurse-led cancer clinics started March 09
- Jubilee Hospital
 - » Minor Surgery and Pulmonary rehabilitation classes
 - » Occupational Therapy, Falls Prevention, Back Classes, and an MS Group
 - » A new link corridor with bed lift
 - » General Ultrasound, Orthotic clinics and an upgraded x-ray facility
- Huntly Community Kitchen is now in place and operating successfully
- Walking to Health opportunities have been established in Banchory, Upper Deeside, Donside and Strathbogie.
- Aberdeenshire Telecare Project's pilot achieved reductions in delayed discharge, unplanned hospital admissions, care home admissions and recorded support in 34 independent living cases and 22 carers. Further funding of £100,000 for 2009-2010 was matched from NHS and local authority budgets.
- Parent and baby water confidence classes are running successfully
- An active programme of 'What's On Events' is being delivered with partners to encourage use of the national forest estate and contribute to mental and physical wellbeing.



Huntly Community Kitchen



Housing

Affordable housing being planned and provided is as follows:

- **Alford** – Greystone Road, 32 units for rent and a further 18 allocated for a low cost home ownership scheme.
- **Huntly** – Deveron Road, 61 units including 12 Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT).
- **Huntly** – Cinema Site, Gordon Street, building is demolished, work has commenced on building flats.
- **Braemar** – 6 units.
- **Aboyne** – Co-op site, 16 unit development by Tenants First Housing Association.
- **Aboyne** – Tarland Road, 2 phase development (phase 1 – 26 Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT), phase 2 – 24 rent).

Community Facilities

- Public Entertainment Licence project has resulted in the creation of Your Hall manual, to help halls and community groups understand and work through the requirements of regulations.

New or improved community facilities are planned or have been developed as follows:

- The Council wide pitch strategy is now in place and new actions have been identified
- Banchory Town Hall has been redecorated
- Youth shelters purchased for Ballater, Aboyne and Huntly
- New integrated notice board is in place in Ballater
- The Community Graveyard is now open in Finzean
- Grampian Transport Museum has built a museum store
- A new tennis facility is now open in Bellabeg
- Braemar and Huntly's public toilets have been renovated



New noticeboard in Ballater



- Shop next to Stewart's Hall, Huntly has been converted into an accessible meeting room integrated with the Hall to meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements and to benefit the elderly and disabled
- Funding and planning advice given to many community organisations

Community Safety

A series of events and initiatives ran in order to promote safe driving amongst young people including:

- Momentum in Alford, Banchory and Aboyne to assist young drivers by equipping them with basic knowledge and practical skills to become safer drivers.
- Provision of funding to cover the full costs for young people to take part in the Driving Agency's Pass Plus Scheme totaling £145 per person. This was supported by the Local Community Safety Groups and Aberdeenshire Council's Transport and Infrastructure Service.
- 'Take Control' road safety talks targeting 4th year pupils were delivered by local fire and police personnel to Banchory and Aboyne Academies.
- All 5th year pupils attended annual 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' events in Aberdeen.
- Road traffic collisions 'Hot Strikes' now carried out in the community following serious road traffic collisions.
- Grampian Police Officers continue to identify speeding offenders within towns and villages.
- All community based officers now have a responsibility of dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- Grampian Police have restructured their management within Marr based on Council ward boundaries in order to enhance the delivery of policing on a community basis.
- Grampian Fire & Rescue Service community safety initiatives have resulted in a slight decrease in secondary fires and a significant decrease in chimney fires.
- One hundred home fire safety visits were carried out by local fire personnel annually
- Banchory Young People and Alcohol Group has been set up to deal with specific Banchory alcohol issues. It has been awarded funding for an arts project to raise awareness.
- Partnership work on event management is taking place to ensure large scale events are safe and do not cause a nuisance.





General

The Marr Area Committee has used Area Top Up funding to assist projects including those below:

Finzean Community Graveyard; photographic exhibition in Glenbuchat Hall; purchase and erection of new notice board in Ballater; improvements to Kincardine O'Neil War Memorial; directional signs to Gartly Hall and Cushnie & Tough Churches; purchase of a sound system for Glass hall; hospitality costs for a twinning visit to Aboyne; two self watering planters for the grass area in front of Victory Hall, Aboyne; establishment of Ceilidh trail throughout the Cairngorms National Park area; Alford, Torphins, and Monymusk Christmas lights infrastructure; the Hill and River Exhibition at Braemar Castle; the safeguarding of a wartime sawmill in the Ballater area; play equipment for Torphins School playgrounds; the refurbishment of the Ballater Geddes plaques on the safer routes to school walk in Ballater; the new Lumphanan Playgroup building; and the hosting of a Royal Visit to the Alford area.

The Marr Area Partnership have used their Initiative Grant Scheme, funded by the Marr Area Committee of the Council, to support a range of community development projects, including a youth cafe in Huntly; cultural heritage projects in Tullynessle and Finzean; community transport schemes in Strathdon and Rhynie; village hall improvements in Cairnie, Ballater and Monymusk; befriending and counselling in Deeside; charity shop volunteering in Aboyne; allotments in Huntly; and the farmers' market in Alford.

B Jobs and the Economy

Tourism

- The Deeside and Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation (DMO) is now established and has appointed a Tourism Development Officer based in Ballater. A variety of initiatives promoting tourism have been developed.
- Braemar Community Ltd received support in the development of Braemar Castle, which has now opened as a tourism facility.
- The cross-park Heather Hopper Service has been further developed between Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Highland Council.
- A 'What's on' events guide has been produced to encourage recreational and tourist use of the national forest estate.

Business Development

- Work has taken place to support the promotion and production of energy, local food and drink and timber in the Cairngorms National Park.





- Individual support and advice actively targeted to encourage applications to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), in order to support the Cairngorms National Park Plan Priorities.
- A Sustainable Tourism Strategy Action plan is being implemented in the National Park. Work is ongoing to develop the Cairngorms Business Partnership.
- Information and support was given to communities holding events to celebrate Homecoming 2009. Successful events supported by the Council took place in Aboyne, Braemar, Lumphanan, Finzean, Huntly and Tullynessle.
- Local businesses in Marr were supported through the Council's Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme. Projects assisted included the Huntly Rewards loyalty card scheme, the Enchanted Glen Winter event at Glentinar, Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board activities, the Cairngorms and Deeside DMO establishment and activities and Deeside Brewery.

Rural Partnerships and Social Enterprises

- Aberdeenshire Community Asset Fund launched with expanded eligibility criteria which enabled community organisations and rural partnerships to apply to help them gain assets to produce a sustainable income.

Rural Development

- LEADER programmes have been established for Rural Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms National Park. In Marr there have been 15 projects approved (some of which will undertake activities across Rural Aberdeenshire) with total eligible costs circa £1.5 million and total grant awarded of £474,000 (as at November 2009).
- Cairngorms LEADER funding has led to local projects being supported in Marr, together with Park wide projects also benefitting. Projects range from swift nesting boxes at Mar Lodge, to supporting Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust path network development.
- Huntly Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership (ATP) has come to an end and Huntly Development Trust is now in place, Huntly Tourism Action Strategy was launched April 2009, Huntly Shop Enhancement Scheme was completed and Huntly Business Association's Rewards loyalty shopping scheme is in place and operating very successfully. A Huntly brand and town anthem is in place. Considerable creative activity takes place in the town including a range of festivals and arts projects.





C Lifelong Learning

Education

Additional schools accommodation requirements were met at:

- Banchory Academy – 2 Classroom blocks were added in February 2008
- Aboyne Academy – 4 Classroom extension completed in July 2008
- Alford Academy – double relocatable classroom unit added, August 2008.

Planning has commenced on a new school/community campus in Alford, which is due to be completed in 2014.

The Ranger Service provided support to teachers by facilitating curriculum based environmental education in both natural and cultural heritage in the countryside.

Community Learning

- One to one and group work is available and taking place in all four of Marr's learning networks to provide for literacy and numeracy needs in the community. Staff and volunteers have been undergoing training in delivering literacies work, with new volunteers being matched to learners.
- Community based learning for families with very young children is being provided across Marr including regular weekly group meetings, events, summer holiday programmes, partnership work with health visitors, social work, speech and language therapists, Homestart and Early Years Forums.
- Advice and support is provided to a wide range of community groups and community forums and events throughout Marr.
- A range of community based adult learning opportunities run on a regular basis in all four learning networks in Marr; a combination of Community Learning and Development, Community Development Groups and College delivery.
- Ongoing work with Youth Forums and other youth groups in all four Marr networks includes active participation in the Community Planning process, the production of a Marr Youth Action Plan, involvement and attendance at Community Council meetings, Aberdeenshire Youth Council and millennium volunteers. Huntly hosted Young Quality Scot Award this year.
- Provision of youth information is delivered through a variety of learning opportunities i.e. consultation events, health related events and group work (sexual health, drugs and alcohol), targeted youth groups through partnership work with schools, health and leisure colleagues and issue based 'drop ins'.





- Community Learning Development (CLD) supports a number of youth facility/venue initiatives in all networks i.e. Cooper Cafe project Huntly, KGV, Town Hall and Coffee Bar in Banchory, Alford Ski pavilion and Ballater Cellars.
- Various methods of engagement are developed with young people not currently involved with learning opportunities based on the More Choices More Chances Strategy. This includes Streetsports in Aboyne, Ballater 'at risk boys', XL project in Alford as well as targeted 1:1 work through the school, transition groups in Banchory and Schools Out Group and Dance Group in Huntly targeting challenging behaviour in young people.
- A purpose built mobile youth facility is now complete and housed with the Fire & Rescue Service in Huntly. The unit is being used to enable engagement with and provide a training and leisure opportunity for young people in isolated rural areas around Huntly.

Culture

- Courses to introduce web access and email to older citizens have been successfully organised and attended. Library opening hours were reviewed and adjusted in line with user patterns. The bandwidth for the People's Net in Libraries has been upgraded and the Netloan booking system installed, which has received positive reports from staff and customers. An outreach library service has been set up for the housebound.
- The North East Arts Touring (NEAT) Network have brought performances to the Marr Area, hosted local and regional network meetings for promoters. There have been over 400 attendees, over 18 performances, in Marr in financial year 2008/09.
- Arts Service funding and officer support was provided for a range of arts organisations.



Treacherous Orchestra at Woodend Barn



Third Stage at Woodend Barn





- Third Stage received revenue funding to support activity for 2008/09 and Officer support throughout. Third Stage offers a varied programme of arts based activities with friendly and informal classes for older people on Deeside.
- In partnership with Marr Area Partnership and K&D Voice the Arts Team have delivered two training sessions to support the Halls Manual and support on cultural funding.
- Parents trying to return to learning, training and employment were supported through the provision of 1:1 support to overcome potential barriers.

D A Sustainable Environment

A great deal of work went into supporting actions in the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), which is currently involved with the Scottish Natural Heritage Species Action Framework project supporting action plans for the red squirrel and wildcat and other animals and insects. A Red Squirrel Project Officer has been co-ordinating a survey and providing habitat management advice.

Environment

- Management Plans have been put in place for Banchory's Captain Wood and Upper and Lower Bellswood.
- Landfill Tax Awards Scheme grants were allocated to Strachan Village Hall, Glenbuchat Hall and Scolty Hill Paths projects.
- A number of biodiversity projects have been supported including:
 - » Poldhu Wells Restoration – Phase 2
 - » The Birse Biodiversity Project
 - » Crathie School Wildlife Garden
 - » Deeside Catchment Management Plan:
- Guidance is being developed for householders to reduce pollution from septic tanks which has been distributed locally and is likely to be taken up nationally.
- Funding sourced for feasibility study for Upper Dee Wetland Restoration.
- Sections of watercourse with the potential to cause flooding to property are inspected periodically and remedial maintenance works undertaken as necessary.
- Guidance re creation of buffer strips to protect watercourses and reduce diffuse pollution is currently being drafted.
- Aberdeenshire Council continue to play an active role in the Dee Catchment Management Plan including chairing the runoff group.





- Two partnership projects are being developed in the Upper Dee catchment, one to increase riparian planting and the other to return areas into natural wetlands by removing historical man-made riverbank defences.
- Forest Enterprise Scotland staff have assisted the progressing of the Huntly Woodlands project with Council staff, focusing on the Battlehill Woods and the Meadows.
- Various activities to combat flooding have taken place, these include:
 - » Sections of watercourse with the potential to cause flooding to property are inspected periodically and remedial maintenance works undertaken.
 - » Works have been undertaken to repair drains in Aboyne which have caused flooding and discussions are planned with Scottish Water over future maintenance.
 - » Flood alleviation works were completed at Alford to reduce runoff from school playing fields which was flooding gardens and threatening properties.
 - » Investigations into flooding issues in the Tarland Burn catchment continue. In conjunction with Macaulay Institute, the Council has secured European funding (Aquarius) to assist in the process of understanding and overcoming barriers to developing flood alleviation schemes. This will be achieved in a manner which may also provide assistance to landowners during times of low flows and will encourage biodiversity.
- Deveron Arts have secured Climate Challenge Funding to encourage reduction in the use of finite resources and increase awareness of climate change issues. The Slow Down: festival encouraged people to find safe routes around Huntly for cycling and walking.
- The Rangers Service held a variety of events supporting local festivals and promoting the responsible use of the countryside. These included work to promote biological recording and archaeology and geology.
- The National Forest Estate is being managed to promote a sustainable environment including at the Clashindarroch Forest where work is intended to positively contribute to good ecological conditions.

Paths

- The Deeside Way has been completed from Aberdeen to Banchory, Aboyne to Ballater and Kincardine O'Neil to Potarch and signage has been installed.
- The Core Paths Plan for the Cairngorms National Park, which will create walking opportunities in the area, is complete. At the time of writing (December 2009) the plan is awaiting ratification by the Scottish Government.





Transportation

- Huntly A2B dial-a-bus service was introduced in May 2008.
- There has been overall bus passenger growth on Royal Deeside of 29% in the first 2 years of service.
- The Royal Deeside bus services and associated infrastructure/information were short listed in the "Best Bus Service" Category of the Scottish Transport Awards 2009.
- Stagecoach Bluebird have introduced new Disability Discrimination Act compliant coaches, with wheelchair lifts.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

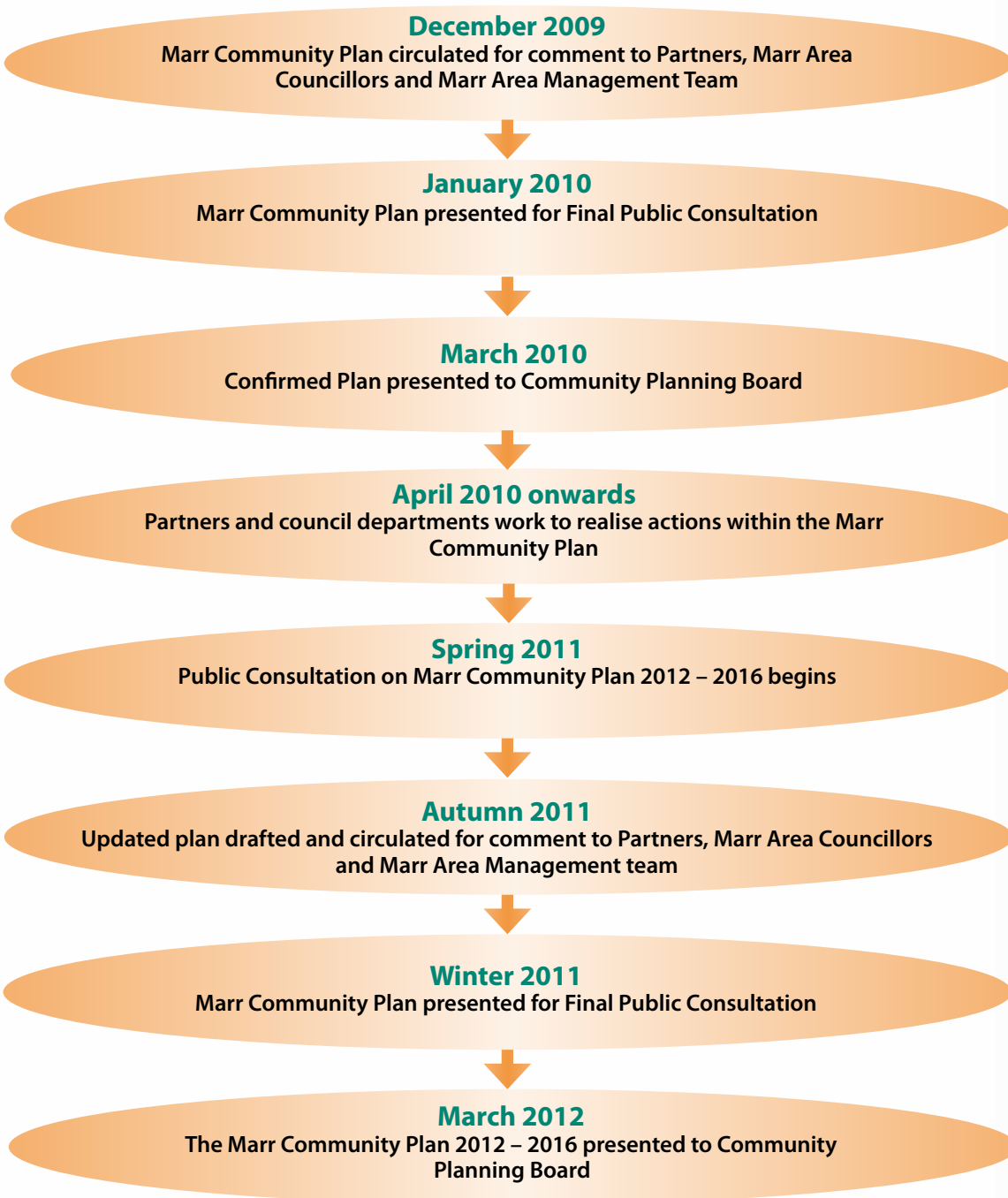
- Aberdeenshire Sustainable Community Halls project launched in 2008 to work towards energy efficiency and renewable energy options for community facilities. 75 halls across Aberdeenshire, 17 halls in the Marr Area, have had energy audits completed.
- Various activities are underway to contribute to Government sustainable energy targets through release of land appropriate for renewables delivery, these include:
 - » Forest Enterprise Scotland are working with developers in relation to windfarm developments at Cushnie, Midhill and Clashindarroch.
 - » A niche marketing exercise is underway to look to package hardwood coppice for fuel wood – currently at tender stage.

E Developing our Partnership

- Community Ward Representatives are elected onto the Marr Community Planning Group on a three yearly basis.
- The Marr Area Partnership, Royal Deeside Partnership, Birse Community Trust and Banchory and District Initiative are supported to ensure that community planning occurs at a local level.
- Joint meetings are held every six months between the Marr Community Planning Group, Marr Area Committee and Aberdeenshire Council Service representatives to ensure "joined-up thinking".
- An Aberdeenshire-wide Community Planning newsletter is issued quarterly.
- Three ward Community Forums take place every three months throughout Marr. Matters of community interest are brought to the attention of the Marr Community Planning Group. A Youth Issues action plan has been drawn up as a result of November forum and is being updated on an ongoing basis.
- Marr Area Partnership (MAP) produced a bi-monthly newsletter providing a wide range of advice to communities. MAP also assist and advise a range of community groups and planning partners on community engagement in accordance with the National Standards.



5 Timetable





6

Actions and Priorities

A COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Working together to enhance the quality of everyday life by improving health and social care, housing and community safety.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Social Care

- A1** Working closely together NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council's Social Work Service aim to develop the best support services for older people in Marr's Communities, including:
- a)** for those at risk of admission to hospital:
 - » complete At Risk Registers in practice areas to identify patients most at risk
 - » be pro-active in preventing delayed discharges from community hospitals where possible
 - » early intervention in complex and dependant patients to prevent admission to hospital and delayed discharges
 - » support patients to manage their chronic conditions to improve health and prevent admission to hospital
 - b)** increase the number of community based opportunities for older people to support and maintain activity levels
 - c)** as identified in the South Aberdeenshire Health Needs Assessment Plan support joint action to meet the needs of older people living in Deeside
 - d)** sustain and improve individual health and well-being
 - e)** enable people to cope with disability
 - f)** enable people to live as independently as possible in their community

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: NHS Grampian/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: NHS Locality Manager/Housing & Social Work (Social Work)



A2 Developing community hospitals and general medical practice to offer the best possible facilities as locally as possible in Marr. We aim to develop:

- a) a business case for:
 - » the expansion of Diagnostic and Treatment Services to all community hospitals and a redesigned birthing unit at Aboyne Hospital
 - » the provision of a new medical centre for Braemar
 - » a new medical centre in Banchory
 - » in close consultation with the local communities and service users.
- b) Rothieden Wing, Jubilee Hospital, Huntly.
 - » The Garden Room – alterations of the former Occupational Therapy Department to provide a large side ward suited to rehabilitation and palliative care.
 - » The refurbishment of Rothieden Ward.
 - » A proposed Shire Spinal Injury clinic run by an outreach team from the Southern General Spinal Injuries Unit in Glasgow.
 - » Optometry support for Ophthalmic Clinics.
 - » Develop endoscopy in the theatre suite.
 - » New build of dental centre.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: NHS Grampian

Lead Contact: Business Support Manager/Locality Manager

A3 Working closely together Aberdeenshire Council's Social Work Service and NHS Grampian provide support throughout Marr for children and families, including:

- a) Implementing the Keeping Childbirth Natural and Dynamic Programme, to maximise opportunities for women to have as natural a birth experience as possible.
- b) Raise awareness and support the development and delivery of services to improve the nutrition of women of child bearing age, pregnant women and children under 5 in disadvantaged areas of Marr.
- c) Develop an infant and maternal nutrition action plan with under five's services in Huntly, linked to the community kitchen project.
- d) Continue to make improvements in child protection following the Multi-agency Action Plan, in partnership with Education and Police.
- e) Support the local healthy weight programme for children and families.
- f) Supporting the national oral health Childsmile, a nursery and school programme in the Aboyne, Alford, Banchory and Huntly community school networks.
- g) Taking forward with partners "Getting it Right for Every Child" the national framework to help every child or young person to achieve their potential.
- h) Supporting looked after children and their carers.
- i) Supporting young carers.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/NHS Grampian

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)/NHS Public Health Coordinator



A4 Working in partnership NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council's Social Work Service to improve mental wellbeing and reduce the incidence of common mental health problems. Raise awareness, reduce stigma and develop strong, resilient and inclusive communities.

- a) Progress the development of a Shire-wide strategy for mental health that takes into account the needs of communities.
- b) Support the mental health and well-being of vulnerable individuals and groups through the development of the Consequences Arts Project, community gardening and the community kitchen (Huntly Area).
- c) Support the roll out of appropriate Choose Life/suicide prevention and self harm training.
- d) Support Community School Networks to endorse the 'Mental Health in Schools – It's everybody's business' action plan.
- e) Support follow up work associated with local 'With Inclusion in Mind' consultations.
- f) Take forward re-design of Dementia services.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/ NHS Grampian

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)/NHS
General Manager/Public Health Co-ordinator
e) Community Planning Officer

A5 Targeting health inequalities in Marr including;

- a) promoting well-being and social inclusion through the Huntly Community Kitchen,
- b) addressing health inequalities by promoting active lifestyles, well-being and social cohesion through a variety of projects including gardening and allotments in Huntly,
- c) developing community led health initiatives through the provision of training and support for specific groups of health professionals,
- d) support the development of a community based smoking cessation service in partnership with Huntly Mental Health, and
- e) supporting the roll out of Sexual Health and Relationship Education (SHARE) in schools and development of a sexual health drop-in service for young people.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: NHS Grampian

Lead Contact: Public Health Co-ordinator

A6 Working together NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council Social Work Service support individuals with problems with alcohol and substance misuse in Marr's communities, including:

- a) Plan and support joint action to reduce alcohol misuse by young people.
- b) Raise awareness of and support participation in training opportunities focusing on Domestic and Elder Abuse.
- c) Supporting recovery from substance misuse.
- d) Equip people and communities to avoid harm.
- e) Improve outcomes in the key areas of homelessness, employability and family support.



f) Improve access to services.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/ NHS Grampian

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)/
NHS Public Health Co-ordinator

A7 Enable service users and carers of all ages to be involved in planning the design and delivery of social work services in Marr.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)

A8 People with a disability, who require community care services, are enabled to-

a) sustain and improve their health,

b) manage their disability, and

c) live as independently as possible.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)

A9 Promote and implement Aberdeenshire Council's Shared Lives scheme in Marr to provide day care, shared breaks, long term accommodation and support for adults with disabilities to enable them to live in the community.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing and Social Work (Social Work)

A10 In conjunction with partners and voluntary groups encourage use of the national forest estate to contribute to mental and physical well being.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

A11 Work in partnership to support community groups, charitable organisations and community interest companies to develop projects and services that contribute towards building resilient communities and/or provide local support for vulnerable individuals at times of need.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Community Planning Group

Lead Contact: Community Planning Officer





HOUSING

A12 Ensure that Council tenants in Marr are able to influence Aberdeenshire Council decisions on housing stock and management by:

- d)** Increasing the level of tenant participation.
- e)** Encouraging feedback from tenants on targeted surveys.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Housing)

A13 Improve the quality of housing stock in Marr in order to achieve the Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS).

- a)** By a programme of capital improvements to include upgrades to public housing of:
 - » Doors and windows
 - » Kitchens and bathrooms
 - » Central heating
 - » Sheltered Housing
- b)** Identify and carry out environmental improvements around public housing.
- c)** To improve the quality and suitability of private sector housing.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Housing)

A14 Provide settled accommodation in 'hostel type' accommodation for young homeless people in Huntly.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Strategic Development Officer (Homelessness)

A16 Measure housing need and assist in enabling the provision of affordable housing alternatives in rural locations.

Enable the provision of affordable housing of mixed tenures in Marr, including where particular needs exist. Priority will be given to developing affordable housing in Aboyne, Alford, Banchory, Ballater, Huntly and Torphins, this priority is determined by identified housing need.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Government, Private Developers, Registered Social Landlords, Aberdeenshire Rural Housing Enabler Partnership

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Council (Housing), Aberdeenshire Rural Housing Enabler

A17 To continue to work with Save Cash Reduce Fuel (SCARF) to eradicate fuel poverty in Marr.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing and Social Work (Housing)

A18 Make land available for affordable housing under The National Forest Land Scheme provisions as and when appropriate.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Area Land Agent, Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A19 Pull together all of the aspirations for the development, redevelopment and rationalisation of community and public facilities in Banchory into a plan which seeks to prioritise the aspirations taking account of opportunities, development difficulties, innovations, resources and community and agencies' views. The detail of some of that activity is contained in actions throughout this plan.

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Marr Area Manager

a) Seek to develop a new swimming pool and leisure centre at Hill of Banchory in partnership with a developer and the local community.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education Learning & Leisure/Legal & Governance (Planning Gain)

b) Upgrade Banchory Toilets

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Environmental Services

A20 As a result of the Council wide audit of playing pitches:

a) Enable the provision of an additional pitch and necessary ancillary facilities to meet identified shortfall in:

» Huntly

» Banchory, subject to available funding

Target Date: 2014

b) Find ways to improve the quality and playability of existing pitches, subject to funding availability.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Leisure)

A21 Support the development of the following Council halls to meet identified local needs/requirements, subject to an exploration of ways to secure funding to enable development to happen.

a) Banchory Town Hall, Banchory

b) Learney Hall, Torphins

Target Date: 2014

Lead contact: Marr Area Manager





- c) Support community efforts to redevelop the Ballater Environmental Centre into a learning and cultural resource centre.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Leisure)

- A22** Support community efforts to progress projects identified by their Community Action Plans or other activities including the following Action Plans:

- a) Oor Alford
- b) Ballater One Voice Our Future
- c) Banchory Community Action Plan
- d) Tarland Community Action Plan
- e) and others to be developed in the next few years, which may include plans for Braemar, Aboyne, Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins.



Tarland Composting Project

All completed Community Action Plans are available to download from www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk on the your pages/Marr section.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Partnership

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Council (Marr Area Manager)

- A23** Work closely with communities to improve local parks in order to increase usage by residents and improve the tourist opportunities across Marr subject to funding and local involvement.

- a) Modernise the Cooper Park play area and surroundings to meet the needs of children and young people in Huntly.
- b) set up a park user group for –
 - » Monaltrie Park, Ballater
 - » King George V Park and Bellfield Park, Banchory
 - » Houghton Country Park, Alford

to explore their future use and development.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Council (Marr Area Manager)

- A24** Support community efforts to develop, or redevelop, community play, sports, recreation and other community facilities to promote vibrant communities and partnership working, including:

- a) King George V Park community facilities
- b) Monaltrie Park all weather multi-use court project

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Council (Marr Area Manager)



A25 Promote the availability of Community Service Volunteers to support communities in maintaining their facilities e.g. painting local halls.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Community Planning Group

Lead Contact: Community Planning Officer

A26 Provide advice, training and support which meets the learning needs of community development groups in Marr to make them more self sufficient and build their capacity.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Community Learning and Development

A27 Enable communities to be involved with developments in their local forests and woodlands by:

- a) Supporting delivery of the National Forest Land Scheme in order to enable communities to acquire parts of the national forest estate in accordance with national policy.
- b) Consulting local community groups on Forest Plans for their local woodlands and deliver effective consultation in relation to the delivery of forest management.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

A28 Maintain and enhance relationships with communities and build further capability in order to meet community aspirations for their local woodlands and forests, including:

- a) maintaining existing partnerships
- b) supporting the development of new local partnerships

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

COMMUNITY SAFETY

A29 Support and promote the work of the Local Community Safety Groups in Marr in Partnership with the Marr Community Planning Group and the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Community Planning Group

Lead Contact: Community Planning Officer

A30 Improve community relations and prevent crime in Marr by:

- a) Continuing to promote and encourage the use of the Aberdeenshire Community Mediation Service, to help resolve disagreements between neighbours and other people or groups.
- b) Providing diversionary activities, using youth work approaches, in areas identified as hot spots for anti social behaviour across the Community School Networks of Aboyne, Alford, Banchory and Huntly.





- c) Using portable CCTV as either an aid to detection, or as a preventative measure, in response to incidents as and when appropriate.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Community Safety Partnership

Lead Contact: Corporate Policy Officer (Antisocial Behaviour)

A31 Implement a series of actions to improve community focus and reduce offending behaviour, including:

- a) Develop and implement, with partners, an early intervention scheme for youth offenders.
- b) Develop and implement a police surgery scheme, whereby local officers will make themselves available during set times within a community. The aim is to increase the general public's access to local officers.
- c) Complete a review and implement actions in relation to Police engagement with Community Councils, in order to deliver a more consistent and effective relationship between them.
- d) Act on local information to target irresponsible licensed premises.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Grampian Police

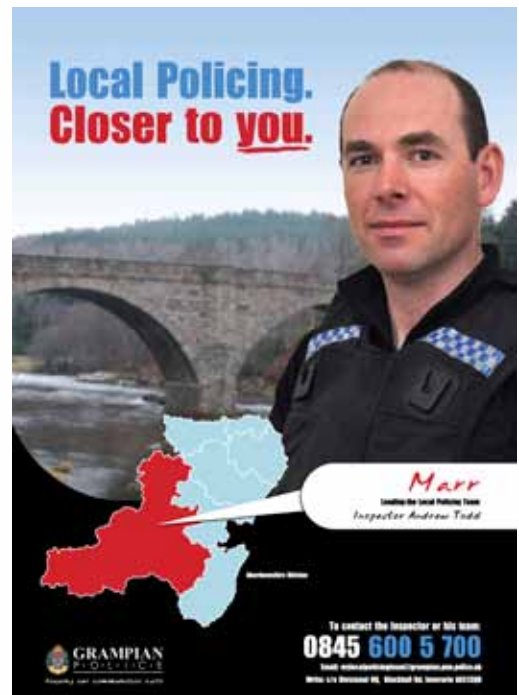
Lead Contact: Police Inspector

A32 Contribute to reducing re-offending, increasing community safety and protecting the public in Marr.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Social Work)



Driving and Road Safety

A33 Continue to support the Driving Standards Agency's Pass Plus Scheme in order to support efforts to reduce road death numbers, particularly involving young people, and promote eco-driving.

- a) Through a grant system operated by Local Community Safety Groups.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: North Marr and Garioch Community Safety Group/
South Marr Community Safety Group

Lead Contact: Local Community Safety Group Chairs

And by additional support through a grant provision from Aberdeenshire Council, Transportation and Infrastructure.

Target Date: 2010/11

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Transportation)

A34 Continue to promote and operate:

- a) the Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative,
- b) the Momentum project for pre-driving age, and
- c) Hot Strikes in response to fatal or serious road accidents in Marr subject to available funding.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Community Safety Partnership, Aberdeenshire Council



Safe Drive Stay Alive Event held annually at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, which aims to educate young people from across Aberdeenshire on the hazardous side of driving.

Lead Contact: Strategy Development Officer (Community Safety)

A35 Highlight school travel safety by organising poster or calendar campaign across Aberdeenshire including the Community School Networks of Aboyne, Alford, Banchory and Huntly.

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Community Safety Partnership

Lead Contact: Strategy Development Officer (Community Safety)

A36 Carry out local community safety work and initiatives aimed at reducing the level of road traffic collisions and raise public awareness of road safety.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Command, Station Manager

A37 Implement the improvement actions identified by the route action study of the A93 over a number of years to improve road safety in Marr.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Roads & Landscape Services)

Fire Safety

A38 Carry out local Community Safety work and initiatives including:

- a) Home Fire Safety visits aimed at reducing accidental house fires. Co-ordinating Community Fire Safety risk reduction activity and delivery of campaigns, initiatives and interventions. Including:
 - » wilful fires involving refuse
 - » chimney fires
 - » unwanted automatic fire alarm calls

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Command, Station Manager



Promoting Home Fire Safety Visits



Wildlife Crime and Responsible Use of the Countryside

- A39** Work with partners, including Grampian Police, to raise awareness of, and assist in the reduction of, wildlife crime in Marr.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning and Environmental Services (Rangers)

- A40** Continue to promote responsible access to Marr's countryside in partnership with Grampian Police and others. In particular at 'hotspots' such as Potarch, Cambus O' May and Clunie flats near Braemar.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning and Environmental Services (Rangers)

- A41** Address the issues associated with the intense recreational use of "honeypot" areas along the River Dee and its tributaries, particularly at Feughside, Potarch, Cambus O May, Dinnet and Braemar (Clunie Water).

Target Date: 2013

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning and Environmental Services (Environment Team South)

- A42** Encourage communities to support the work of the Aberdeenshire Environment Forum in particular the Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative (Ali) in Marr and get involved in local litter reduction.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Community Planning Group

Lead Contact: Community Planning Officer

GENERAL

- A43** Use the Area Top Up Budget and Initiative Grant Scheme to promote better service provision in Marr and encourage community self help particularly in activities which improve and support the attractiveness and sustainability of communities.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/ Marr Area Partnership

Lead Contact: Area Manager/Development Officer

- A44** Identify suitable accommodation to locate the Marr Area Development Control Team and Environmental Services staff together with staff from other services requiring office accommodation in Banchory.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Roads)



B JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Working together to improve the economy of Aberdeenshire and the employment prospects of its people.

TOURISM

B1 Working in partnership with community planning partners to support the development of a quality tourism infrastructure in Deeside, Strathdon and Huntly including:

- a) The work of Deeside and the Cairngorms Ltd Destination Management Organisation (DMO).
- b) The delivery of the Deeside Freshwater Fisheries Development Project.
- c) Supporting infrastructure development, including footpaths and cycleways, that will improve the visitor experience, including the Deeside Way.
- d) Supporting the work of the Huntly and District Tourism Action Group (HADTAG).

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: (a – c) Aberdeenshire Council, Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development), Cairngorms National Park Authority,
(d) Huntly Development Trust

Lead Contact: (a – c) Aberdeenshire Council, Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)
(d) Huntly Development Trust

B2 Enable sustainable recreational and tourist use of the National Forest Estate. Work with other organisations, including Visit Scotland and local tourism action groups in order to enable the National Forest Estate to make a positive contribution to tourism in Aberdeenshire.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

B3 Identify and allocate land for employment purposes in Marr communities through the Local Development Plan process and thereafter encourage the private sector to identify and provide for local employment need.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Property)

B4 Support local businesses through the Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme (SAB) or relevant development projects, in accordance with the Council's Economic Development Priorities to 2011 and beyond.

Target Date: 2011 and review thereafter

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)





RURAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

- B5** Continue to support Rural Partnerships through the Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Fund subject to satisfactory delivery of Service Level Agreements.

Support community or social enterprises through the Community Asset Fund to develop assets or services that will provide the organisation with an ongoing income.

Explore the potential, and support the establishment of independent, sustainable community organisations such as Development Trusts and similar. Such organisations will aim to deliver increased community capacity, engagement, empowerment and economic benefits in Marr, while reducing their reliance on grant-funding.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- B6** Continue to deliver the EU LEADER Programmes in Rural Aberdeenshire and in the Cairngorms National Park and support the work of the Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group partnership and the Cairngorms National Park Local Action Group.

Target Date: 2013

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)/CNPA Grants Manager
Development Plan Manager (Local Development Plan)

- B7** Deliver the Huntly Development Trust Business Plan actions in Huntly included in the following themes:

- Developing Our Infrastructure.
- Developing Our Economy.
- Strengthening Our Society.
- Advancing Our Culture And Heritage.
- Promoting Sport In Our Community.
- Improving Our Environment.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Huntly Development Trust

Lead Contact: Development Manager

- B8** Work in partnership to support communities in Marr, to develop plans for the use of 'a percent for art' funds, if these have been allocated to their area, by enabling them to work with creative practitioners and makers in the arts and crafts sector. In order to improve the infrastructure, facilities, marketing or activities in their area.

Target date: 2010 – 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Environment Planner (Public Art)



Huntly Hairst Food Trail

- B9** Encourage communities and communities of interest to use the Marr Bus Forum as a means to lobby for improved bus services, customer service and safety.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Local Planning Group

Lead Contact: Community Planning Officer

- B10** Support the development of the Cairngorms Business Partnership that will lead on a Park wide marketing framework and action plan.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Cairngorms National Park Authority

Lead Contact: Sustainable Economy Manager

- B11** Enable businesses in Marr to promote the special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park more effectively by:

a) Promoting the use of the newly developed interpretation guidance.

b) Developing a co-ordinated approach to visitor centres presenting themselves in the context of the national park.

Target Date: 2013

Lead Partner: Cairngorms National Park Authority

Lead Contact: Senior Visitor Services Officer

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- B12** Implement and adjust learning opportunities to meet literacy and numeracy needs of those living or working in the Marr area

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Literacies Partnership

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- B13** Support parents trying to return to learning, training and employment through Working for Families, by providing 1:1 support to overcome potential barriers.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)

- B14** Use a variety of methods to engage with young people in Marr currently not involved with learning, enabling them to reach their full potential using the "More Choices More Chances" strategy.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- B15** Support four long term unemployed from Marr into employment with twelve months work experience and training.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership

Lead Contact: Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Co-ordinator



CHILDCARE

B16 Work in partnership to support the development of the out of school care sector, including:

- a) Continuing to provide start up funding for day care/wrap around care across the independent, public and voluntary sectors.
- b) Providing start up grants to new childminders and grants to existing childminders for interconnecting smoke alarms, out of school care and additional support needs.
- c) Providing funding to refurbish or enhance and develop indoor and outdoor early years and childcare facilities in the voluntary and public sector.
- d) Developing opportunities for out of school care during holiday periods.
- e) Providing childcare projects that operate year round including in-service days and local holidays.

Target Date: Various 2010 – 2013

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership Development Worker

B17 Implementing the feasibility study on childcare in rural areas and expanding childcare provision in partnership with local groups and subject to funding availability.

Target Date: Various 2010 – 2013

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership Development Worker

B18 Identify where development of significant housing is allocated, identify where businesses are expanding in order to anticipate future childcare needs and identify where local partnerships need to be developed.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership/Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership Development Worker

B19 To support the provision and promotion of school holiday activities provided by Aberdeenshire Council and local partners for children and young people in the Easter, Summer and October holidays.

Target Date: 2011 – 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning and Leisure (Leisure)



C LIFELONG LEARNING

Working and learning together to develop opportunities and build stronger communities.

EDUCATION

C1 Improve school facilities across Marr by:

a) Identifying which Marr schools will require additional classroom accommodation to cope with rising pupils rolls.

Target Date: Annually 2010 – 2014

b) Working in partnership with Keig Community Hall Users Group to undertake a joint project to improve school and community facilities at Keig School.

Target Date: 2013

c) Replacing the existing Alford Academy, Primary School, Swimming Pool and Community and Leisure facilities on a new site with a fully integrated 'all-through' community campus development.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Education)

C2 Subject to Local Development Plan process explore potential sites for any replacement schools and other facilities required.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Property)/Education, Learning & Leisure (Education)

COMMUNITY LEARNING

C3 Provide opportunities for Lifelong Learning and Leisure across the Marr community school networks of Aboyne, Alford, Banchory and Huntly, in partnership and according to need, by:

a) Working with Community Groups in the Marr area to identify lifelong learning and leisure needs in each community and support the most appropriate approach to delivery through partnership working.

b) Enabling community based family learning for families with very young children.

c) Providing learning opportunities and support which gives adults the opportunity to meet their full potential through learning.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Community Learning & Development (CLD))

C4 Encourage and support Youth Forums and other youth involvement in each of the Marr's community school networks, with Aberdeenshire Youth Forum, the Community Planning process and Scottish Youth Parliament; in order to ensure that young people in Marr are respected, valued, listened to and have their ideas included i.e. involve young people in the production and implementation of a Marr Youth Action Plan.



Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council
Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- C5** Develop a variety of methods to provide youth opportunities in Marr which will support young people in their lifelong learning, enabling them to be successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council
Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- C6** Support new and continued development of access to suitable venues/facilities for young people to use on a regular basis in each Community School Network

- Banchory – The Coffee Bar, The Box, Lesser Town Hall
- Alford – Ski pavilion, new Community School facility plans
- Aboyne – Ballater Cellars, Deeside Community Centre
- Huntly – Cooper Café, The Basement

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council
Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- C7** Progress the provision and funding for purpose built mobile ‘youth facilities’ which will focus on the rural areas of Marr, particularly in the Alford and Aboyne networks, to enable engagement with and learning opportunities for young people in isolated areas of Donside and Deeside.

Target Date: 2011
Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council
Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (CLD)

- C8** Take any action which makes it easier for people to volunteer in Marr including:

- Dismantling the barriers to volunteering
- Improving the volunteer experience
- Increasing the number of people involved in volunteering
- Broadening the range of people in volunteering
- Encouraging young people to volunteer
- Ensuring volunteering is recognised at policy level.

Target Date: Ongoing
Lead Partner: Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire
Lead Contact: Volunteer Centre Manager

CULTURE

- C9** Support the development of community based Cultural Heritage projects in the Aberdeenshire part of the Cairngorm National Park

Target Date: 2012
Lead Partner: Cairngorms National Park Authority
Lead Contact: Head of Heritage and Land Management



C10 For children and young people we will devise a sustainable framework of cultural entitlements which support Curriculum for Excellence in Marr's Community School Networks. This work will be delivered with a broad range of partners including the voluntary and independent sectors to promote and develop opportunities for engagement in cultural activity.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Cultural Services Team Leader South)

C11 Aberdeenshire Council Cultural Services (Arts, Heritage/Museums and Libraries) will work with a broad range of partners in Marr, including the voluntary and independent sectors, to promote and develop opportunities for engagement in cultural activity.

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Cultural Services Team Leader South)

C12 Investigate the potential for merging the reception points of Banchory Library, Museum and Visitor Information Centre to improve access.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Cultural Services Team Leader South)

C13 Support the creative sector in contributing to Marr's economy by:

- Initiating and developing training opportunities
- Developing audiences
- Access to professional Grant Schemes

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Education, Learning & Leisure (Cultural Services Team Leader South)



Participants on the 'You Make a Difference' parenting programme



D A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Working together to achieve sustainability by reducing resource use, protecting our environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

ENVIRONMENT

D1 Develop and implement local biodiversity action plans in Marr to protect our pristine environment, including:

- Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Cairngorms National Park Authority/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Head of Heritage and Land Management/Planning & Environmental Services (Environment South)

D3 Develop and implement a range of forest and woodland initiatives in the Marr area including Woodland in and Around Towns and Forests for People.

Target Date: 2010 – 2014

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Aberdeenshire Council, Planning & Environmental Services (Environment South)

D4 Seek to purchase additional land to contribute to the Scottish Forestry Strategy for creation of new woodlands particularly where these can contribute to economic, social and environmental objectives.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

D5 Organise the following walks on an annual basis:

- a) Five Sunday Guided walks, April-September to introduce local people and visitors to the social and natural heritage of the area.
- b) Events and training opportunities throughout the year in partnership with other Ranger Services and Community groups, including events for International Year of Biodiversity 2010.
- c) Guided walks with communities arranged throughout the summer in support of Ballater Victoria Week, Ballater Walking Festival, Braemar Gala Week and Active Aboyne.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services (Rangers)



D6 Ensure that all work undertaken on the National Forest Estate is compliant with:

- a) the UK Woodland and Assurance Standard (UKWAS)
- b) Forestry Commission Strategy (FCS), forest and water guidelines

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

WATER MANAGEMENT

D7 Implement the actions in the recently approved Dee Catchment Management Plan. Focus on the four agreed priorities of reducing:

- a) diffuse pollution
- b) pollution from septic tanks
- c) rates of run off
- d) restoring urban watercourses



Floods in Huntly

Target Date: 2014

Lead Partner: Macaulay
Institute/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transport & Infrastructure (Roads)/Planning & Environmental Services
(Environment South)

D8 Flood prevention work in Marr will include the:

- a) Investigation of flood events in Marr and proposals for appropriate engineering works to reduce the likelihood of further flooding.

Target Date: Ongoing

- b) Undertaking of duties under the new Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act, with respect to preparation of Local Flood Risk Management Plans for areas identified as being vulnerable to flooding within Marr Area.
 - » Plans are to be developed with community involvement in identifying and implementing solutions.
 - » Natural flood management techniques are to be employed whenever practicable.

Target Date: Detailed Plans to commence in 2011 and be completed by 2015

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Roads and Landscape Services)

D9 Delivery of the Aquarius Project 'farmers as water managers' focusing on the Tarland Basin, this project will support the development of the Tarland Flood Prevention Scheme.

Target Date: 2010 – 2014

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transport & Infrastructure (Roads)/Planning & Environmental Services
(Environment South)



HERITAGE

- D10** Encourage the protection of the built heritage in Huntly, Tarland and Banchory by working to achieve or review Conservation Area Designations as in Local Plan.

Target Date: 2010 – 2014

- a)** Carry out a review of sites of regional and local importance in Marr in line with new national guidance on Local Nature Conservation Sites.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services (Environment South)

PATHS

- D11** Finalise and implement the Core Paths Plan for Marr (excluding the area of the Cairngorms National Park) in order to create walking, cycling and equestrian opportunities close to settlements.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services (Environment South)

- D12** Complete and establish a maintenance programme for the Deeside Way, long distance path, between Aberdeen and Ballater, in order to promote health, wellbeing, sustainable travel and a tourist opportunity to enjoy Deeside.

Target Date: 2013

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council/Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure/Planning & Environmental Services, (Environment South)/Aberdeenshire Forest District

- D13** Upgrade the current route of the Gordon Way and carry out feasibility studies into extending the route to the north to Huntly and east to Inverurie.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services (Environment South)

- D14** Support the newly formed Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (COAT) to enable ongoing development of access routes and associated facilities for all types on non motorised users visiting or living in the area.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Cairngorms National Park Authority

Lead Contact: Senior Outdoor Access Officer

- D15** Ensure the National Forest Estate provides opportunities for walking in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Core Paths Plan.

Target Date: 2012

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

TRANSPORTATION

D16 Consult the public along Deeside on the conceptual design proposals now completed for a Park and Ride facility at the east end of Banchory, to include:

- a) explanation of principles
- b) links to Nestrans Strategy
- c) potential benefits to the whole of Deeside

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Transportation)

D17 Undertake a service review, incorporating an analysis of accessibility, in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Aberdeenshire local supported public transport network.

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Transportation)

WASTE MANAGEMENT

D18 Continue promoting and monitoring waste reduction, reuse, recycling and waste arrangements within Marr area. Maintain and upgrade services to meet future legislative requirements, increased use, and resolve specific operational site problems wherever possible.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning Environmental Services (Waste Management)

D19 Run waste recycling Public Social Partnership pilot project to encourage the redirecting of furniture from Landfill to reuse and recycling.

Target Date: 2010

Lead Partner: Council Voluntary Services (CVS) /Boxroom/Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: CVS Chief Officer

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES

D20 Pilot the use of alternative heating systems to reduce the effect of climate change and reduce heating costs.

- a) Continue to work with SCARF to eradicate fuel poverty emissions across Marr.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Housing & Social Work (Housing)

D21 Encourage developers in Marr to provide renewable energy and energy efficient designs in new and refurbished developments through developer contribution incentives, advice and promotion, and supplementary planning guidance.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services

D22 Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy options for community facilities like village halls.

- a) Encourage community facilities to become more energy efficient and to develop renewable energy projects.
- b) Encourage and support the development of bio-mass and wood pellets as a fuel.

Target Date: 2011

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transportation & Infrastructure (Economic Development)

D23 Contribute to Government sustainable energy targets through release of land appropriate for delivery of renewable energy.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Forestry Commission Scotland

Lead Contact: Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District

D24 Continue funding and other support for centres/organisations eg. Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF), Renewables Connection, Business and Environment Partnership (BEPNE). All working to reduce resource use and emissions.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Transport & Infrastructure

D25 In order to reduce energy demand and increase the use of renewable energy sources in Marr:

- a) Implement Supplementary Planning Guidance on Carbon Neutrality in new development.
- b) Extend the use of the global footprint software tool to raise awareness and encourage actions within communities.
- c) Continue to use the planning gain process to encourage sustainability measures to be incorporated into developments.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services

E DEVELOPING OUR PARTNERSHIP

Working together to make our partnership as efficient and effective as possible.

E1 Continue to:

- a) Develop the Marr Community Planning Group (Marr CPG) to become an effective joint working and engagement mechanism.
- b) Support Community Ward Forums and develop other opportunities for community engagement in community planning.
- c) Use other opportunities for engagement through communities and communities of interest to influence the provision of services.
- d) Use the outputs from the Marr Community Planning Group to influence higher level community planning groups where appropriate to raise and deal with community issues.
- e) Use the outputs from community engagement of all kinds to create actions in the Marr Community Plan.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Area Manager

E2 Support the development of partnership working between Community Planning Partners, together with the people of Marr, using the National Standards of Community Engagement. Act as community advocates, encourage and offer support to people working to achieve their community aspirations.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Area Partnership

Lead Contact: Development Officer

E3 Identify around three communities per year interested in developing a Community Action Plan and support them through the process.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Marr Area Partnership

Lead Contact: Development Officer

E4 Develop Community Profiles for those communities undertaking Community Action Plans to provide statistical evidence to support those plans.

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Planning & Environmental Services (Planning)

E5 Continue to support the work of:

- a) Marr Area Partnership
- b) Huntly Development Trust
- c) the Royal Deeside Partnership and its constituent groups
- d) the Birse Community Trust
- e) Banchory and District Initiative and other community organisations in providing “bottom up” community planning and enabling community aspirations to be met. and other community organisations

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner: Aberdeenshire Council

Lead Contact: Area Manager

E6 Partners will work together in the following delivery groups to deliver actions in the Cairngorms National Park Plan (2007-2012). Partners will work together to create the new Cairngorms National Park Plan (2012-2017).

- Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and landscape
- Integrating public support for land management
- Supporting sustainable deer management
- Promote affordable and sustainable housing
- Providing high quality opportunities for outdoor access
- Making tourism and business more sustainable
- Raising awareness and understanding of the park

Target Date: Ongoing

Lead Partner Cairngorms National Park Authority

Lead Contact Strategic Policy and Planning Officer (Park Plan)/ Development Plan Manager (Local Development Plan)

7

How Are We Doing?

Whenever possible, Performance Indicators for the actions contained within the plan have been identified and progress will be measured against these on a six monthly basis.

The Monitoring Document is publically available and can be downloaded from the Marr pages at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk.

The preparation of this plan has included extensive public consultation. This has included consideration of Community Action Plans and information on previous plan actions. Feedback, both informal and formal, had been sought and received throughout the last two years from communities and communities of interest, as well as from agencies we work with.

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