

Cairngorms National Park Business Support Audit 2010

User Guide

This document, available from the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) in hard copy or on its website (www.cairngorms.co.uk), updates an audit produced in April 2009. The new Audit documents the business support services and environmental planning support that are available to businesses and third sector organisations within the Park. The information is presented by Local Authority area except where support services are available across the Park as a whole. Most of the support services are also available outwith the Park, and this Guide should also be more widely useful to business advisers (e.g. the new Business Gateways), businesses and groups.

The Audit is structured as follows:

- Section 1 : The Cairngorms National Park Area as a whole
- Section 2 : Highland
- Section 3 : Moray
- Section 4 : Aberdeenshire
- Section 5 : Angus
- Section 7 : Principal Web Links

Web links are also provided throughout the Audit for more detail or up-to-date information on the different sources of business support that are summarised.

The information in this Audit has been checked for accuracy as at June 2010, but schemes of assistance evolve or expire, and new programmes are introduced regularly by the main support agencies, while new initiatives from a range of sources will also be introduced as the year progresses, e.g. as a result of successful applications to EU Programmes.

The programmes that are covered in this Audit are:

Section 1 : The Park as a Whole

Business Gateway – advice and information for new and existing businesses, often a business's first point of contact (2.1-2.10).

The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust – financial and professional support to young people starting or growing a business (2.11-2.19).

The Scottish Investment Fund – to enable established third sector organisations to achieve a transformational step change (2.20).

The Social Entrepreneurs Fund – for individuals who want to set up and run a business with a social or environmental purpose (2.10).

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) – the Scottish Government’s main programme for financial support to rural Scotland. Measures include:

- Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme (P7);
- Food Processing, Marketing and Co-Operative Grant Scheme (P7);
- Forestry Commission Challenge Funds (P8);
- LEADER – administered through Local Action Groups – providing grants to increase the capacity of local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and co-operation to tackle local development objectives (P8-9);
- Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (P9);
- Rural Development Contracts – Land Management Options (P10);
- Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities, which include Community Services and Facilities and Micro-Enterprise strands (P10-11).

Forestry Commission Scotland – forestry related grants under the Rural Development Contracts and through Forestry Commission Challenge Funds (P11-12).

Scottish Natural Heritage – a range of grants for projects not covered by the SRDP (P12-13).

Scottish Development International (SDI) – help for Scottish companies to grow through accessing new markets across the globe (P13-14).

Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) – provision to manufacturing firms of all sizes of expert advice, on-to-one support, training and events (P14).

Skills Development Scotland – Scotland’s skills body, formed in 2008 to bring together Careers Scotland, the Scottish University for Industry, and skills programmes previously delivered by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Programmes and delivery mechanisms include:

- Career guidance and employability services through Careers Scotland (P15);
- Learndirect Scotland for individuals (P15);
- Learndirect Scotland for business (P16);
- Get Ready for Work for young people aged 16-19 (P16);
- Training for Work for people aged 18 and over (P16);
- Skillseekers (vocational training) for young people aged 16-19 (P16);
- Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) for young people aged 16 or over (P16);
- Scottish Employer Service, involving a direct relationship with employers (P17);
- Work with Government Economic Strategy key sectors, industry advisory groups, Sector Skills Councils and the Enterprise Networks (P18-19);
- ScotAction, the Scottish Government’s skills support package for leading Scotland out of recession and on to economic growth. ScotAction initiatives include:
 - Adopt an Apprentice (P20);
 - Safeguard an Apprentice (P20);
 - Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE), which responds to redundancies (P20-21);
 - Invest in an Apprentice (P21).

VisitScotland – operates a Growth Fund to help national, regional and local groups to reach new target markets and increase visitor numbers (P21-22).

Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) – operates the following training courses:

- Cairngorms Connections for tourism businesses (P22);
- Cairngorms Awareness and Pride project for people living and working in the Park (P22);
- Land Based Business Training for land managers (P22).

Also, CNPA is a partner in Woodfuel in the Cairngorms (P23).

Community Energy Scotland – supports communities to develop sustainable energy projects. Its role includes:

- Delivering the Communities & Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), which can provide capital grants, technical support and training (P23-24);
- Producing a Community Renewable Energy Toolkit (P24).

Awards for All Scotland – a National Lottery small grants scheme covering three of the Lottery distributors: Scottish Arts Council, Big Lottery Fund and sportscotland (P24-25).

Heritage Lottery Fund – new programmes to be launched summer 2010 that will grant aid community projects, feasibility studies, etc (P27).

Cairngorms Business Partnership – a new organisation that brings together businesses and a range of existing business organisations (P27-29). Business organisations operating in the Park, include:

- Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce (P27);
- Aviemore & the Cairngorms Destination Management Ltd (P27);
- Royal Deeside & the Cairngorms (P27);
- Cairngorms Hostels (P28);
- Creative Cairngorms (P28).

Rural Direct – a service delivered by SCVO which helps community organisations to access funding from a range of sources. Miscellaneous sources noted in the Audit include the Co-Operative Community Fund, the Scottish Community Foundation and the Robertson Trust (P29-30).

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – has provided funding towards a range of projects and schemes, including:

- VisitScotland – Green Tourism Initiative for Business Growth (P31-32);
- Forestry Commission – Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme (P32);
- Edinburgh Napier University – Institute for Wood Products (P32);
- University of Abertay – Commercialisation and Enterprise Development (P32);

- University of Edinburgh – Scottish Environmental Technology Network Phase 2 (P32).

The European Social Fund (ESF) – has funded the following:

- Scottish Chambers of Commerce – Business Mentoring Scheme (P32);
- Speyside Trust – JobConnect@badaguish

Sections 3 & 4 : Highland and Moray

The following apply both to Highland and Moray and the same text on these is provided in both Sections 3 and 4.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) – provides a wide range of support to businesses and communities, including:

- Grant and other assistance to businesses, with a focus on key sectors and growth businesses (P41-45);
- Business Innovation Grants (P42);
- Business Mentoring (P43);
- Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) for investment projects (P42);
- SMART: SCOTLAND to support projects that represent a significant technological advance (P42);
- R & D funding scheme (P43);
- Technology adoption, including Byte the Bullet (P43);
- Entrepreneurship (P43);
- MIT Business Growth Programme (P44);
- International market development, with SDI (P44-45);
- Learningworks – a training and learning resource website (P45);
- Community Land Unit (P46-48), which provides advice and funding for:
 - The investigation of community land ownership options
 - Land and asset acquisition by communities
 - Support after the acquisition of community assets
 - The acquisition of skills and expertise in communities in relation to land and asset ownership

The UHI HI Links Project – enables businesses to develop new products, processes and business ideas through accessing the knowledge and expertise of Scotland's academic sector (P50).

Highlands and Islands Social Enterprise Zone (HISEZ) – provides advice and guidance to trading and potential social enterprises (P50-51).

ERDF-funded projects include:

- Highland Birchwoods – Renewable Heat Advice and Business Support (P52).

ESF-funded projects include:

- Social Enterprise Academy – Developing Leaders for Sustainable Communities (P52);
- Scottish Agricultural College – Delivering Business Skills to Rural Areas (P52);
- Inverness College – Promoting Enterprise & Innovation in Further Education (P53);
- Springboard Charitable Trust – for the hospitality, leisure, travel & tourism sector (P53).

Highland Council, via Highland Opportunity Ltd, operates **European Business Services** – a comprehensive source of business information for the north of Scotland (P36).

Section 3 : Highland-Specific Projects & Schemes

Highland Council currently (via Highland Opportunity Ltd):

- Provides loans to match PSYBT loans (P36);
- Operates a Highland Business Growth Fund (P36-37);
- Operates the national Business Gateway Service for new and small businesses (P37-39);
- Delivers the Cairngorms Environmental Support Scheme on behalf of CNPA – a pilot project (P39);
- Provides Rural Development Grants for business start-ups (P40-41).

The Crofting Communities Agricultural Grant Scheme (CCAGS) – provides assistance to crofting and smaller eligible small/medium scale agricultural businesses (P49).

The Scottish Crofting Foundation – provides a range of services, including a crofting induction course (P50).

Section 4: Moray-Specific Projects & Schemes

Moray Council delivers the **Business Gateway** service for new and small businesses under a shared service agreement with Highland Council through Highland Opportunity Ltd (P54-56).

East of Scotland Investment Fund – a fund to be launched in July 2010 that will offer loans to growth businesses (P56-57).

Moray Council operates a **Funding Support Website** (P57).

Grampian Food Forum Innovation & Business Growth Programme – runs workshops (P57-58).

Moray College – Customers First, Skills for the Hospitality & Tourism Sector – an ESF funded programme (P69).

Sections 5 & 6 : Aberdeenshire and Angus

The following apply both to Aberdeenshire and Angus, and the same text on these is provided in both Sections 5 and 6.

Scottish Enterprise – as the principal economic development agency for Scotland outwith the Highland and Islands, SE supports or provides the following:

- Enterprise (P76);
- Innovation (P77);
- Investment (P77);
- Key Sectors – Food & Drink (P77-78); Tourism (P78);
- High Growth Start-Ups (P78-79);
- Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) for investment projects (P79-80);
- Scottish Seed Fund for start-ups and young growth companies (P80);
- Scottish Co-investment Fund and Scottish Venture Fund for larger investments (P80-81);
- Innovation Grants, including Research and Development Grants (P81);
- SMART:SCOTLAND to support projects that represent a significant technological advance (P82);
- Innovation Support Service – an advisory service (P83);
- Winning through Innovation – a series of workshops and events (P83);
- Tourism Innovation Fund (P83-84);
- Tourism Innovation Workshops (P84);
- Leadership for Growth Programme (P85);
- Business Mentoring Scotland (P85);
- Investors in People (IIP) Scotland (P85);
- Organisational Development Reviews (P85);
- Tourism Management Development Programme (P86).

ERDF-funded projects include:

- Scottish Enterprise – Business Efficiency programme; and Rural Business Property Support (P89);
- Scottish Enterprise – Advanced Entrepreneurial and Pre Incubation Support; and Support for Young Innovative Enterprises (P89);
- Glasgow Caledonian University – Supporting SMEs within Scotland’s Food & Drink Sector (P89);
- Robert Gordon University – Developing the ICT Business Base (P89).

Section 5: Aberdeenshire-Specific Projects & Schemes

Aberdeenshire Council – delivers or manages:

- Business Gateway, including workshops for those thinking of starting a business (P70) and enhanced services through an ERDF bid (P71);
- Support for Aberdeenshire Business (SAB) scheme (P71-73), which includes:
 - Development Grants
 - Rental Grants
 - Job Creation Grants
 - Sustainable Business Grants
 - Rural Shop Support Scheme
 - Loans
- Aberdeenshire Community Asset Fund (P73);
- Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Fund (P73);
- Grampian Food Forum Innovate & Business Growth Programme (P74).

Aberdeenshire & Grampian Chamber of Commerce – provides a range of member services (P74-75).

Ballater Business Association – has a more local role (P87-88).

ESF-funded projects include:

- Aberdeenshire Council – North East Work Skills (P89).

Section 6: Angus-Specific Projects & Schemes

Angus Council – delivers or manages:

- Business Advice (P90);
- Business Gateway (P91-92);
- Angus Grant Scheme (P92);
- Market Development Grant (P92);
- Vocational Training Fund (P93);
- Supplier Development Programme (P94);
- Supply of Business Premises (P94);
- Promotion of Tourism (P94);
- Tourism Accommodation Support (P94-95), which includes a marketing and quality assurance scheme, a networking group, and inward investment promotion aimed at new hotels;
- Angus in China Initiative (P95);
- Support for business groups, including a Crafts Association, Fishing/Angling initiative and Outdoor Angus (P96);
- Rural Shops & Community Post Office Grant Scheme (P96);
- Innovation and Development Fund for the tourism sector (P96);
- An External Funding team (P96-97);
- Community Grant Scheme (P97);
- angus4community website providing information on funding (P97).

Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce – provides a range of services (P97).

ERDF-funded projects include:

- Perth & Kinross Council – Unlocking the Economic Potential of Rural Areas in Perthshire and Angus (PI 11);
- Oatridge College – GrowBiz Project (PI 11);
- Dundee City Council – Enterprising Tayside (PI 12);
- Perth College – Inspiring Enterprise (PI 12).

ESF-funded projects include:

- Angus Council / Robert Gordon University – Virtual Learning for Angus (PI 12).