



Scottish Rural Network

Executive Summary

Operational Plan 2026-27

The Scottish Rural Network (SRN) Operational Plan for 2026-27 outlines the strategic initiatives aimed at fostering rural development across Scotland. SRN plays a pivotal role in enhancing the capacities of rural and island communities through support, innovation, and effective engagement.

Key Objectives and Priorities

1. **Policy Participation:** Strengthen rural and island community involvement in policy development.
2. **Policy and Funding Support:** Facilitate the delivery of rural policy and funding programs, including the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) initiatives.
3. **Development Opportunities:** Promote funding and development opportunities tailored for rural areas.
4. **Innovation and Knowledge Exchange:** Encourage advancements and exchange of knowledge in agriculture, forestry, and rural development sectors.

Strategic Initiatives for 2026-27

- **SR CPR Recommendations:** Take forward work as agreed by Ministers to implement the recommendations from the Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review (SR CPR).
- **Thematic Grant-Funded Work Strands:** Support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and community-led development through funded projects.
- **Support for Young Local Action Groups (YLAGs):** Enhance youth engagement and visibility in rural policy through training and peer learning.
- **Enhancement of Digital Platforms:** Improve SRN's website and develop a Knowledge Hub to facilitate access to resources and networking.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Maintain active communication and engagement with stakeholders through events, newsletters, and social media.

Operational Delivery

SRN will support various thematic work strands aligned with Scottish Government priorities, focusing on rural community capacity, innovation, and enterprise support. Additionally, SRN will enhance digital platforms to improve access to information and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Communication and Engagement

SRN will sustain a robust engagement strategy through:

- Regular publications, including weekly newsletters and funding bulletins.
- Active social media presence to promote events and engage stakeholders.
- Continuous production of case studies to highlight successful rural development initiatives.

Success Metrics

Success will be measured by:

- Effective implementation of SR CPR recommendations.
- Stakeholder engagement and participation.
- Increased utilisation of digital platforms.
- Successful delivery of thematic projects and CLLDNet activities.

Through these efforts, SRN aims to support and develop sustainable, resilient, and vibrant rural communities across Scotland.