A new blueprint for Scotland’s rural economy

Rural Housing Scotland Annual Conference
In Summer 2017, Mr Ewing, Minister for Rural Economy and Connectivity, announced the setup of the independent National Council of Rural Advisers (NCRA).
The Council’s remit is twofold: to provide evidence based advice to Scottish Ministers on the implications of Scotland leaving the EU, and to recommend future actions that could sustain a vibrant and flourishing rural economy.
Our Rural Economy defined
The Five Core Principles

1. A vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rural economy is a critical component in achieving Scotland’s future ambitions
2. The value of shaping the future based on current thinking, cumulative learning and historic research, is recognised
3. Rural economic indicators need to accurately demonstrate social, environmental and economic contribution and impact, to allow targeted investment decisions to be made
4. Rural economic outcomes are linked to national outcomes to clearly demonstrate value and strategic importance
5. Recommendations provide clear direction on timescales, accountability and measurements of success.
The Recommendations

1. A vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rural economy can only be achieved by recognising its strategic importance and **effectively mainstreaming** it within all policy and decision making processes.
3. A **Rural Economy Action Group (REAG)** to be convened to drive forward progress.
4. Foundational actions to be agreed to allow the REAG to have an initial action plan.
# National Performance Framework

## Vision

A vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rural economy, recognised for its value and contribution, and effectively mainstreamed in all policy-making processes.

## Outcomes

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<th>1. To have a rural economy that is embedded in the NPF and given equal importance in policy-making and investment decisions across government</th>
<th>2. To have national economic plans and industry-led strategies that are joined up and demonstrate a supportive, integrated approach</th>
<th>3. To communicate an ambitious and confident narrative about the rural economy</th>
<th>4. To have diversity and potential for growth in the rural economy, delivered through targeted support and the development of credible finance models</th>
<th>5. To value our natural assets and the people who work with them</th>
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<td>6. To have highly valued, flexible, adaptive and skilled people</td>
<td>7. To have a sustainable and profitable primary production and added value sector</td>
<td>8. To have a supportive enterprise environment for the development and growth of our rural businesses</td>
<td>9. To have improved and inclusive access to rural housing solutions</td>
<td>10. To have a robust infrastructure, with improved and inclusive access to services, mobility and connectivity</td>
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**Equality, Communications and Measurement**
Where next?

On Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} February Cabinet Secretary, Fergus Ewing, announced the creation of the REAG – the group will be tasked with bringing the rural economy to the forefront of policy-making.